

Msheireb Museums and Sidra Medicine Champion Neurodiversity in Second Science Café Session



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Doha, Qatar – 28 April 2026: Msheireb Museums and Sidra Medicine hosted the second session of the 2026 Science Café series on Monday, which convened leading experts who discussed neurodevelopmental conditions from the perspective of science, technology, ability and achievement under the theme “Different Abilities, Shared Futures: Disability and Success.”

Focusing on inclusive environments for children and adolescents, the session underscored the value of recognising individual capabilities and creating pathways for long-term achievement including the importance of family engagement, peer networks, and societal awareness.

The panel featured a specialised list of speakers from Sidra Medicine, in addition to clinical experts, educational researchers, and psychological specialists. They are: Dr. Hilal A. Lashuel, Executive Director of Research, Development, and Innovation at Qatar Foundation; Dr. Dena A. Al-Thani, Associate Professor at the College of Science and Engineering at Hamad Bin Khalifa University; Ms. Fatima Saeed Al Saadi, Executive Director of Al-Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs; Dr Atif Magbool, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Sidra Medicine; Dr Mohammad Telfat, Director of Clinical Services Department at Al-Shafallah Center; and Ms. Muna Al-Raeissi, Expert in Elderly and Disability Studies at the Ministry of Social Development and Family in Qatar. The panel was moderated by Ms. Hamda Al-Hitmi, the founder of Autism Parents Platform Qatar.

Abdulla Al Naama, General Manager of Msheireb Museums, said: “Msheireb Museums continue to support these essential conversations, and this ongoing collaboration with Sidra Medicine ensures that scientific advancements reach the community, helping us build an environment where every individual feels valued and understood. We view these sessions as a way to reshape perceptions and advocate for a society that welcomes all abilities.”

Dr. Sahar Da’as, Research Manager at Sidra Medicine and lead of the Science Café initiative, added:

“The Science Café series translates clinical and scientific research findings into actionable tools for the community. During this session, discussions explored the neurodevelopmental foundations of brain function and how they influence behavior, communication, and learning – grounding the conversation in cutting-edge neuroscience. We focused on the value of tailored, evidence-based approaches that build on individual strengths while addressing challenges, reinforcing a shared vision of inclusion and success. Seeing families and experts gather to discuss these advancements underlines the importance of science-led support in daily life.”

The session also highlighted innovative digital tools and assistive technologies designed to enhance accessibility, engagement, and learning outcomes for individuals with disabilities, demonstrating how technology can help bridge gaps in education and daily life. Complementing

these perspectives, the event also featured vendors and partners in a separate exhibition space covering the services related to inclusive education and community-driven support systems available in Qatar.

Marking its third year, the Science Café series serves as a cornerstone of Msheireb Museums' wider programming, enhancing the connection between scientific research and the community. In partnership with Sidra Medicine, the initiative uses open forums to share research findings in plain language, translating complex information into clear, approachable dialogue and keeping the public informed about medical advancements shaping the future of healthcare. For details on upcoming sessions, visit <https://www.sidra.org/events/science-cafe/>.